

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering a stent into an anatomical structure, the system comprising:

an outer tubular structure having a proximal end, a distal end, an inner surface defining a lumen, and an outer surface, wherein the outer tubular structure has a translucent region at the distal end and the translucent region has a length less than a constrained length of a stent placed within the outer tubular structure, wherein the outer tubular structure is devoid of braiding along the length of the translucent region between the inner and outer surfaces;

an inner elongated structure having a proximal end and a distal end, the inner elongated structure being located within the outer tubular structure such that the distal end of the inner elongated structure substantially coincides with the distal end of the outer tubular structure;

a stent accommodating area on the distal end of the inner elongated structure, the stent accommodating area accommodating the stent; and

an external tubular structure contact area projecting from a surface of the inner elongated structure and located closer to a proximal end of the stent accommodating area than a distal end of the stent accommodating area, the external

tubular structure contact area frictionally sliding against an interior surface of the outer tubular structure,

wherein the translucent region is coextensive with at least a portion of the stent accommodating area.

12-44. (Cancelled).

45. (Currently Amended) A method of deploying a stent with respect to an anatomical structure, the method comprising:

providing a stent delivery system, the system comprising:

an outer tubular structure having a proximal end, a distal end, an inner surface defining a lumen, and an outer surface, wherein the outer tubular structure has a translucent region at the distal end and the translucent region has a length less than a constrained length of a stent within the outer tubular structure, wherein the outer tubular structure is devoid of braiding along the length of the translucent region between the inner and outer surfaces;

an inner elongated structure having a proximal end and a distal end, the inner elongated structure being located within the outer tubular structure such that the distal end of the inner elongated structure substantially coincides with the distal end of the outer tubular structure;

a stent accommodating area on the distal end of the inner
elongated structure accommodating a stent; and
an external tubular structure contact area projecting from a surface
of the inner elongated structure and located [[proximal]]
closer to a proximal end of the stent accommodating area
than a distal end of the stent accommodating area a, the
external tubular structure contact area able to frictionally
slide against an interior surface of the outer tubular structure,
wherein the translucent region is coextensive with at least a portion
of the stent accommodating area;

inserting the stent delivery system through an insertion point in a body until the
distal ends of the external tubular structure and the inner elongated structure are in a
position within the anatomical structure;

moving the outer tubular structure proximally while maintaining the position of the
inner elongated structure, thus exposing the stent accommodating area and releasing at
least part of the stent into the anatomical structure;

continuing the proximal movement of the outer tubular structure with respect to
the inner elongated structure until the stent is completely deployed into the anatomical
structure; and

withdrawing the stent delivery system from the insertion point in the body.

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a gap between an external surface of the inner elongated structure and the interior surface of the outer tubular member.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

at least one marker band on the inner elongated structure proximate the stent accommodating area.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the stent delivery system further comprises:

a gap between an external surface of the inner elongated structure and the interior surface of the outer tubular member.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the stent delivery system further comprises:

at least one marker band on the inner elongated structure proximate the stent accommodating area.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

before completely deploying the stent into the anatomical structure, moving the inner elongated structure proximally while maintaining the position of the outer tubular structure, thus retracting at least part of the stent from the anatomical structure back into the stent accommodating area; and

re-positioning the stent delivery system to a new position with respect to the anatomical structure.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure is constructed of Pellethane.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure is constructed of Pellethane.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure comprises a plurality of external tubular structure contact areas projecting from the surface of the inner elongated structure.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54, wherein each external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure is separated from other external tubular structure contact areas.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein each subsequently proximal external tubular structure contact area on the surface of the inner elongated structure increases in durometer from the distal end to the proximal end of the inner tubular structure.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the most distal external tubular structure contact area on the surface of the inner elongated structure has a durometer measure of approximately 55D.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein there are three external tubular structure contact areas.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59, wherein the durometer measures of the three external tubular structure contact areas on the surface of the inner tubular structure from the distal end proximally are approximately 55D, approximately 65D, and approximately 75D.

61. (Cancelled).

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure comprises a plurality of external tubular structure contact areas projecting from the surface of the inner elongated structure.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein each external tubular structure contact area on the inner elongated structure is separated from other external tubular structure contact areas.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein each subsequently proximal external tubular structure contact area on the surface of the inner elongated structure increases in durometer from the distal end to the proximal end of the inner tubular structure.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the most distal external tubular structure contact area on the surface of the inner elongated structure has a durometer measure of approximately 55D.

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein there are three external tubular structure contact areas.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the durometer measures of the three external tubular structure contact areas on the surface of the inner tubular structure from the distal end proximally are approximately 55D, approximately 65D, and approximately 75D.